

To The FOA:

Re-Docket No. 98N-1265

I agree strongly with the enclosed postcard, but also wanted to enclose an account of my own situation as an illustration of how important the availability of alternative drugs via compounding pharmacies. I am fortunate enough to live in a state that has a compounding pharmacy, so will probably still be able to obtain my medication under the proposed changes, but ^{31 33.99 MAY 21 A9} would like others to have that choice.

With the onset of menopause, I experienced such severe hot flushes that I was forced outside, without a coat, fanning myself in 22° F weather. Yes, below zero. My physician prescribed Prempro. Prempro controlled my symptoms well, however, I was able to stay on it for only a month because of an unbearable 24-hour a day headache.

Further research turned up information about natural hormones in topical form available from compounding pharmacies. While skeptical, my MD was willing to let me try it. IT has controlled my menopausal symptoms just as well as Prempro and in the 2 yrs I've been on it I have not had any side-effects. My husband no longer has to wear long underwear under a sweater in our home!

I also experienced an unexpected benefit. My near-photogenic memory had been eroding at an alarming rate. IT continued to erode on Prempro. At IT's nadir I needed 3 things in a store and wandered around for an hour without remembering what the third was. IT wasn't until the next day when I opened the bathroom cupboard that I remembered I had used the last of my deodorant. After 2 months on my natural hormones I subjectively felt my memory had improved. I decided to test it. I had a list of 9 items in my purse when I went to town. I solved - never had to consult the list - forgot nothing! My memory is not as good as pre-menopause, but I no longer worry about Alzheimer's.

Please don't allow pressure from pharmaceutical companies (what I suspect is behind this) to take away the public's options.

Linda M. Johnson RN, CCRN

98N-1265

C 2811



Mr & Mrs. Hayden Jameson
595 Perch Lake Rd.
Hudson, WI 54016



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers LN RM 1061
Rockville, MD 20857-0003

20057+0003 bbbllllllllllllllllllllllllllll